

## Park Alfonso Findley

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## NOTABLE DEATHS

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PARK ALFONSO FINDLEY was born in Bloomfield, Iowa, January 28, 1875, and died in Louisville, Kentucky, June 13, 1935. Burial was with military honors in Masonic Cemetery, Des Moines. He was a son of Dr. John Bangs Findley and Mary Ellen (Moore) Findley. He was with his parents in their removal to Des Moines in 1890. He attended Highland Park College for a time, and was graduated with the degree of M. D. from Drake University in March, 1895, and admitted to practice in Iowa. He began his practice at Bevington, Madison County, but soon changed to Des Moines where he became assistant city physician, and where for the next twenty years he practiced as a physician and surgeon, although having many interruptions by reason of his other activities. His military career, almost continuous, extended from his enlistment as a private in Company A, Third Infantry, Iowa National Guard, on July 6, 1891, to the time of his death, almost forty-four years. He was an assistant surgeon in the Third Regiment in 1895, became a second lieutenant in 1898 when the regiment became the Fifty-first Iowa Volunteers and went with it to the Philippines where he saw active service and was promoted to first lieutenant. Returning home he was appointed in 1900 captain of Company A of the Fifty-first Regiment. He reported for duty on the call of President Wilson in June, 1916, and saw service on the Mexican Border. During the World War, 1917 to 1919, he was a captain in army camps in the South training troops in trench mortar battery service and in cavalry drills. In 1921 he was appointed major of the First Cavalry, Iowa National Guard, later the One Hundred and Thirteenth Cavalry, was promoted to lieutenant colonel in 1922, to colonel in 1923, and to brigadier general April 16, 1930, and assigned to command the Fifty-seventh Cavalry Brigade. In 1922 he was elected sheriff of Polk County and was three times re-elected, serving from January, 1923, to January, 1931. In September, 1931, General Findley was put in command of the eighteen hundred Iowa National Guard who were sent to Cedar County and to other parts of southeastern Iowa to enforce the tuberculin test of cattle, and handled the difficult situation with ability and skill. Although a Republican, he was appointed on January 1, 1933, by the newly elected Democratic attorney general, Edward L. O'Connor, chief of the Bureau of Criminal Investigation, and that position he was holding at the time of his death. His knowledge of science and of modern methods of detecting crime had greatly aided him in this line of work. In the solution of crime and the capture of criminals he exhibited unusual ability both in the sheriff's office and in this position.

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ELLAS R. ZELLER was born near Hamilton, Butler County, Ohio, September 13, 1844, and died in Winterset, Iowa, July 22, 1935. Burial was in the Winterset Cemetery. His parents were John and Susan

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